

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humani generis

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Joshua Lederberg

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR-emeritus

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Dr. Thomas C. Nelson
500 W. Hampton Ave
Milwaukee WI 53217

Dear Tom

Gus Nossal knew it would give me a boost, and I am gratified he shared with me your letter of July 3.

What have you been doing all these years?

I am glad to have your current mailing address, for some pragmatic as well as sentimental reasons.

Did you know Helen Byers Bernstein was a neighbor of yours in Milwaukee? Alas she died, just a few weeks ago. -- June 29.

I hope you gather rather than suppress "many ladybird stories" -- we can talk later about whether or how to publish them.

For the record, I didn't "quit" medical school in Nov. 1945; I had a chance to do a lab elective, and did that at Yale, fully expecting to return. It was a tough call in 1947, when I finally had to make a choice between that and taking the UW job. I recounted that at JL Genetic recombination in *Escherichia coli*: Disputation at

Cold Spring Harbor, 1946-1996. *Genetics* 144:439-443 (1996)

I'd be particularly interested in your recollections of your interactions with Delbruck about kinetics of mating.

Then I have a favor to ask of you. Go to <http://profiles.NLM.nih.gov/BB> and search [Thomas and Nelson] and you'll find 42 entries, my correspondence to you.

- a. I don't suppose you have originals of these that I could borrow to get clearer renditions?
- b. There is an equal number from Nelson to me, I would need your copyright permission to

have them posted. Are you agreeable to that? If so, please sign the enclosed form.

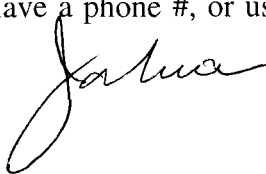
I hope you're well. My worst problem right now is a fairly serious lumbago-- it comes and goes; but I'm still in the lab/office every day. We're working on how fast bugs can grow and why: we have some marathoner *Vibrios* that clock at a doubling time of < 9 minutes. They slow themselves down very efficiently via some autocrine quorum-sensing factors.

I'm still in touch with Jim Crow at Madison. Anne passed away a few years ago; but he's still going strong.

Best wishes,

Do you have a phone #, or use email?

Josh



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